

Your best breeding partner!

Polish Pig Breeders and Producers Association "POLSUS" has been a self-government organization since 1958.

"POLSUS" main task is performance value estimation of pigs and keeping their herd books. These tasks are based on National Breeding Program guidelines that precisely describe methods of breeding works in herds of following pig breeds: Polish large white, Polish landrace, puławska, duroc, pietrain and hampshire. Breeding works are targeted at genetic improvement of purebred animals as well as at production of purebred and crossbred breeding stock.

There are many elements that are keys to success in running National Breeding Program. The basic ones are: accurate animals' registration and pedigree analysis. Both tasks require precise control of pigs' origin. In a consequence breeding and performance value estimations are very precise and enable to continue with proper pigs selection and mating.

Special identification system of pigs introduced by "POLSUS" guarantees that each animal has a unique number. This number is placed in pigs' ears as a tattoo or an ear-clip.

The following breeding information is gathered when estimating a pig:

A) reproduction performance:

- · Number of piglets born
- Number of piglets weaned
- Number of teats
- · Age at first farrowing
- Period between litters

B) fattening and slaughtering performance

- Daily gain
- Backfat thickness
- · Loin eye height
- · Lean meat content

Fattening and slaughtering performance is estimated on alive animal. It is possible thanks to use of ultrasound equipment — PIGLOG 105. Breeding value (BLUP ZWH) is estimated for purebred pigs by National Research Institute of Animal Production in Balice.

Results obtained in estimating fattening and slaughtering performances in test stations are also used by "POLSUS" in breeding works. Test stations are the only ones that deliver basic information on meat quality features.

All breeding works described above are aimed at improving financial effectiveness of pig farms as well as improving pork quality, its dietetic properties, taste and flavour.

Association is currently taking an active part in improving pork quality by initiating new quality assurance scheme for pork called Pork Quality System. "POLSUS" also promotes pork consumption by different projects sponsored by Pork Promotion Fund. •••

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